

Updates to Health Canada Drinking Water Screening Values for Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

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Currently there are no guidelines for PFAS in drinking water in Canada. In the absence of a drinking water guideline, Health Canada has developed drinking water screening values for some PFAS, which can be used to determine whether the concentrations detected are likely to be of concern to human health. Screening values are developed at the request of a *federal* department, a province or territory in the event of a spill, leak or other contamination event, and are based on readily available scientific studies. They are not subject to a review as thorough as the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, which undergo internal peer review and public consultation before being approved by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committees on Drinking Water and on Health and the Environment. Drinking water screening values are provided as guidance, and apply to water intended for human consumption.

PFAS name	PFAS acronym	DWSV (mg/L)	DWSV (µg/L)	Notes
perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	0.0002*	0.2*	2016
perfluorooctane sulfonate	PFOS	0.0006*	0.6*	2016
perfluorobutanoate	PFBA	0.03	30	2011
perfluorobutane sulfonate	PFBS	0.015	15	2011
perfluorohexanesulfonate	PFHxS	0.0006	0.6	Based on PFOS (2015)
perfluoropentanoate	PFPeA	0.0002	0.2	Based on PFOA (2015)
perfluorohexanoate	PFHxA	0.0002	0.2	Based on PFOA (2015)
perfluoroheptanoate	PFHpA	0.0002	0.2	Based on PFOA (2015)
perfluorononanoate	PFNA	0.0002	0.2	Based on PFOA (2015)

Notes:

* Full health risk assessments are now being developed by Health Canada for PFOS and PFOA as part of the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. These two assessments have been drafted and are expected to be posted for public consultation in late spring/early summer 2016, and finalized in 2017.